each of said side surfaces having an inset spanning from said block top surface to said block bottom surface,

said block top surface comprising a protrusion [one or more protrusions] positioned adjacent said first and second insets [inset] on said block top surface, and

said block back surface comprising first and second legs, said first leg extending from said block [the wall] back surface beyond the plane of said block first side surface and said second leg extending from said block [the wall] back surface beyond the plane of said block second side surface, wherein said first and second legs include front surfaces which angle towards said block front surface as said front surfaces extend away from said block back surface.

6. (Once Amended) [The block of claim 1] A pinless composite masonry block comprising a front surface and a back surface adjoined by first and second side surfaces, a top surface and a bottom surface each lying adjacent said front, back, and first and second side surfaces,

each of said side surfaces having an inset spanning from said block top surface to said block bottom surface,

said block top surface comprising at least one protrusion positioned adjacent said first and second insets on said block top surface,

said block back surface comprising first and second legs, said first leg extending from said block back surface beyond the plane of said block first side surface and said second leg extending from said block back surface beyond the plane of said block second side surface, wherein said first and second legs include front surfaces which angle towards said block front surface as said front surfaces extend away from said block back surface, and

wherein said block protrusion [protrusions] comprises first and second oblong sections between which is positioned a joining section, said joining section having a narrower width than either of said first and second oblong sections.

7. (Once Amended) The block of claim 2 [8] wherein said insets extend from about 1 inch to 4 inches into the center portion of the block.

8. (Once Amended) A retaining wall structure, said retaining wall structure comprising one or more courses, each of said courses comprising one or more composite masonry blocks, each of said composite masonry blocks comprising a front surface and a back surface adjoined by first and second side surfaces, a top surface and a bottom surface each lying adjacent said front, back and first and second side surfaces,

each of said side surfaces having an inset spanning from said block top surface to said block bottom surface,

said block top surface comprising a protrusion positioned adjacent said first and second insets [inset] on said block top surface,

said block back surface comprising first and second legs, said first leg [legs] extending from said block [the wall] back surface beyond the plane of said block first side surface and said second leg extending from said block [the wall] back surface beyond the plane of said block second side surface wherein said first and second legs include front surfaces which angle towards said block front surface as said front surfaces extend away from said block back surface.

9. (Once Amended) The retaining structure of claim 8 wherein said structure comprises at least two courses wherein the blocks of said upper course comprise insets which are seated on the protrusions of the blocks [block] of said lower course.

21. (Once Amended) A method of building a retaining structure, said structure comprising at least two courses, each of said courses comprising one or more composite masonry blocks, each of said blocks comprising a front surface and a back surface adjoined by first and second side surfaces, a top surface and a bottom surface each lying adjacent said front, back and first and second side surfaces, each of said side surfaces having an inset extending inward from said side surface and spanning from said

block top surface to said block bottom surface, and said block top surface comprising at least one protrusion positioned adjacent said first and second insets on said block top surface for mating with an inset on another block, wherein the blocks of said upper course are smaller in dimension when measured from said front surface to said back surface than the blocks of said lower course, said method comprising the step of laying each of said courses to form said retaining structure.

Please add the following new claims:

--22. The block of claim 1, wherein said block upper surface comprises a second protrusion, and wherein each protrusion is shaped to seat within the insets of adjacently positioned similarly configured blocks.

23. The block of claim 2, wherein said insets extend into the center portion of the block in a direction generally parallel to said block front surface, and wherein said protrusion is interposed on said block top surface between said insets.

24. The block of claim 1, wherein each inset extends inward from said respective block side surface, and wherein each protrusion functions by mating with an inset on a second, similarly configured block.

25. The block of claim 1, wherein the area of each inset adjacent said block bottom surface is larger than the area of said protrusion.

26. The block of claim 1, wherein said protrusion is kidney shaped.

27. The block of claim 1, wherein said block back surface has substantially the same width as said block front surface such that two of said blocks may be placed adjacent to one another to define an opening therebetween bounded by adjacent legs and side surfaces on said two blocks.

28. The structure of claim 8, wherein said block upper surface comprises a second protrusion, and wherein each protrusion is shaped to seat within the insets of adjacently positioned similarly configured blocks.

29. The structure of claim 8, wherein each inset extends inward from said respective block side surface.

30. The structure of claim 29, wherein said insets extend inward from about 1 inch to 4 inches.

31. The structure of claim 28, wherein said insets extend inward in a direction generally parallel to said block front

surface, and wherein said protrusion is interposed on said block top surface between said insets.

32. The structure of claim 8, wherein the area of each inset adjacent said block bottom surface is larger than the area of said protrusion.

33. The structure of claim 8, wherein said protrusion is kidney shaped.

34. The structure of claim 8, wherein said block back surface has substantially the same width as said block front surface such that two of said blocks may be placed adjacent to one another to define ~~an opening therebetween bounded by~~ adjacent legs and ~~side surfaces on said two blocks~~.

Remarks

This Amendment and Response is being submitted in reply to the Office Action June 16, 1994. A one month request for an extention of time is being submitted concurrently herewith. Therefore, the period for response has been extended up to and includes October 17, 1994 (as the four month date, October 16, 1994, falls on a Sunday). Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims by the Examiner is respectfully requested.

In the subject Office Action, the Examiner provisionally rejected claims 1-5 and 8-15 under the judicially created